

REMARKS

With entry of this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5-16, and 19-24 are pending in the application. Applicants acknowledge that those claims are allowed. Office action, page 1.

Applicants have canceled claims 17 and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. They reserve the right to pursue that subject matter in one or more continuation applications.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 14, 19, and 22 solely to correct typographical errors. No new matter is entered by the amendments.

Claim 18 stands provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly claiming the same invention as that of claim 3 in copending application 10/223,850. Office action, page 2. Applicants traverse the rejection. To advance this application to allowance, however, they have canceled claim 18. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response, and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 1, 2004

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